

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 EB-07 TRSE-00 SAM-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /101 W

----- 057530

R 091408Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 938

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB

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CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA
CNO WASHDC//OP-614
DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII
OSD/ISA/EUR WASHDC

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FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, US, AG, XG

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - MARCH 6-9

1. SUMMARY:

-- COVERAGE OF THE UNITED STATES AND DETENTE CONTAINS
A FEW BRIGHT SPOTS, BUT THESE ARE CONSIDERABLY OUTWEIGHED
BY SOME HEAVY BRICKBATS;

-- PRAVDA REPORTS THAT ALGIERS CONSIDERS POLISARIO
A "LIBERATION MOVEMENT", AND ADDS THAT MAURITANIA HAS
BROKEN RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA;

-- SUSLOV, PONOMAREV, AND RUMYANTSEV MET WITH
VARIOUS DELEGATIONS ATTENDING THE PARTY CONGRESS;
INCLUDED ARE THOSE FROM SOUTH YEMEN AND SYRIA:

-- AND IN BRIEF COVERAGE OF CHINA, PRAVDA REPORTS
THAT DIPLOMATS WERE INVITED TO VIEW ANTI-TENG POSTERS
IN PEKING. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. AND DETNETE. PRAVDA (MARCH 8) CARRIES A
BRIEF REPORT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ATLANTA PRESS
CONFERENCE, AND HIGHLIGHTS HIS POSITIVE REMARKS ON
DETENTE. PRAVDA ALSO NOTES THAT SECRETARY POINTED
OUT THE SOVIET UNION RECEIVED NO ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGE
AS A RESULT OF DETENTE. ELSEWHERE, PRAVDA REPORTS
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SENATORS PELL AND PERCY ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE
"STRENGTHENING" OF DETENTE. AS A FINAL POSITIVE NOTE,
PRAVDA (MARCH 9) CASTS WILLY BRANDT IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT,
AS THE FORMER CHANCELLOR COMMENTS INTER ALIA ON THE ILLS
OF THE CSU. HOWEVER, THESE POSITIVE REMARKS ARE MORE THAN
OVERBALANCED BY NEGATIVE COVERAGE, AS PRAVDA (MARCH 9)
HITS AT ALLEGED AMERICAN "INTERFERENCE" ON OTHER COUNTRIES'
INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND SPECIFICALLY AT GENERAL HAIG'S

OPPOSITION TO CP PARTICIPATION IN NATO GOVERNMENTS. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (MARCH 7) REPORTS THAT SENATORS KENNEDY, HUMPHREY, AND JAVITS INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION OF CRUISE MISSILE TESTING. KZ ADDS THAT MANY CONGRESSMEN, AS WELL AS OTHERS, OPPOSE CONTINUED TESTING, BUT THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO GO AHEAD ANYWAY. AN ACCOMPANYING KZ REPORT HITS HARD AT UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S SENATE TESTIMONY ON THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND HIGHLIGHTS IN VERY NEGATIVE TERMS HIS COMMENTS THAT SUCH AID IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. PRAVDA (MARCH 8) REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN (ABZUG, SCHROEDER) ARE UNHAPPY THAT THE AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUPPORTS "REACTIONARY MILITARY REGIMES." A WEALTH OF MINOR ANTI-AMERICANA IS SPRINKLED THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND PRESS.

3. SAHARA. PRAVDA (MARCH 9) REPORTS FROM ALGIERS THAT A GOVERNMENT DECLARATION THERE JUSTIFIED THE RECOGNITION OF THE SAHARAN ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT ALGIERS SUPPORTS "ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS." AN ACCOMPANYING REPORT FROM NOUAKCHOTT STATES THAT MAURITANIA HAS BROKEN RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA. COMMENT. PUTTING THE PHRASE "LIBERATION MOVEMENT" IN THE MOUTHS OF THE ALGERIANS WOULD MOVE MOSCOW ONE VERY SMALL STEP CLOSER TO RECOGNITION OF THE POLISARIO, BUT IT REMAINS CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET UNION RETAINS ITS RELUCTANCE TO TAKE THE BIG STEP. END COMMENT.

4. MIDDLE EAST. SEVERAL MIDDLE EAST DELEGATIONS MET WITH SUSLOV AND PONOMAREV OVER THE WEEKEND. PRAVDA (MARCH 7) REPORTS THAT THE SOUTH YEMENI DELEGATION, HEADED BY ABDEL ISMAIL, HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TWO PARTY OFFICIALS. COMMENT. THE PRESS ACCOUNT REVEALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LITTLE OF THE DISCUSSIONS' SUBSTANCE, BUT THE MEETING PROBABLY WAS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED SOVIET INTEREST IN SOUTH YEMEN AND THE DHOFAR REBELLION. END COMMENT. PRAVDA (MARCH 9) REPORTS THAT PONOMAREV AND RUMYANTSEV MET WITH THE SYRIAN BAATH PARTY DELEGATION, BUT THE ACCOUNT STATES, ONLY IN THE MOST GENERAL TERMS, THAT THE DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON BILATERAL AFFAIRS.

5. CHINA. PRAVDA (MARCH 8) CARRIES A BRIEF REPORT FROM TOKYO THAT ABOUT 100 DIPLOMATS IN PEKING, AT THE INVITATION OF THE CHINESE MFA, WERE TAKEN TO PEKING UNIVERSITY IN ORDER TO VIEW THE ANTI-TENG HSIAO-PING POSTERS. THE REPORT ADDS THAT A UNIVERSITY SPOKESMAN DIVULGED NOTHING NEW WHEN ASKED ABOUT TENG'S STATUS. IZVESTIYA (MARCH 6) REPORTS THAT INDIRA GANDHI, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH BLITZ,

SAID THAT CHINA IS "INCITING ANTI-NATIONAL ELEMENTS IN MANY
COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW03537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760089-0401
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760380/aaaacssh.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - MARCH 6-9
TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, US, AG, XG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006